

What is claimed is:

**DNB**  
**A3**

1. A method for facilitating part qualification  
functions in a communications network environment,  
comprising:

receiving at a host system a request by a user system  
to execute part qualification software wherein the host  
system and the user system are connected to the  
communications network;

executing said part qualification software at the host  
system;

sending results of said executing to the user system;

receiving input at the host system from the user system  
in response to said executing; and

providing the user system with output generated as a  
result of said executing.

1  
2 2. The method of claim 1 wherein executing said part  
3 qualification software comprises:  
4 selecting a commodity type, wherein said commodity type  
5 is associated with a supplier part;  
6 creating a part qualification plan template for said  
7 commodity type;  
8 using said template to create a part qualification plan  
9 for said supplier part;  
10 updating said part qualification plan with data  
11 specific to said supplier part;  
12 analyzing said data;  
13 qualifying said supplier part based on said analyzing  
said data.

1  
2 3. The method of claim 2 further comprising an archive  
tool for said part qualification plan.

1  
2 4. The method of claim 2, wherein said part  
3 qualification plan template comprises:  
4 types of data required to qualify said commodity type;  
5 proposed data repositories for storing said data;  
6 assigned default viewing tool based on said proposed  
7 data repositories;  
8 a text message field; and  
access permissions structure.

1           5. The method of claim 4 wherein said part  
2 qualification plan template further comprises a detailed  
3 plan framework comprising:  
4           a plurality of tasks;  
5           suggested durations for each said plurality of tasks;  
6 and  
7           at least one entity responsible for each said plurality  
8 of tasks.

1           6. The method of claim 2, wherein said part  
2 qualification plan comprises:  
3           types of data required to qualify said supplier part;  
4           proposed data repositories for storing said data;  
5           assigned default viewing tool based on said proposed  
6 data repositories;  
7           a text message field; and  
8           access permissions structure.

1           7. The method of claim 6 wherein said qualification  
2 plan further comprises a detailed plan comprising:  
3           a plurality of tasks;  
4           target dates for each said plurality of tasks;  
5           status information for each said plurality of tasks;  
6 and  
            entity responsible for each said plurality of tasks.

1 8. The method of claim 6 wherein said text message  
2 field includes a document link.

1 9. The method of claim 6 wherein said text message  
2 field includes a hypertext link.

1 10. The method of claim 6 wherein said text message  
2 field includes a file name.

1 11. The method of claim 6 wherein said text message  
2 field includes a comment.

1 12. The method of claim 6 wherein said proposed data  
2 repositories are remote to said host system.

1 13. The method of claim 2 wherein said analyzing said  
2 data includes selecting and viewing an item in said list.

1 14. The method of claim 2 wherein said analyzing said  
2 data includes running reports against detailed plans and  
3 viewing said reports.

1 15. The method of claim 1 wherein said request is  
2 initiated by a supplier and access is restricted to supplier  
3 data.

1           16. The method of claim 1 wherein said request is  
2 initiated by a supplier and access is restricted to supplier  
3 application functions.

1           17. The method of claim 1 wherein said request is  
2 initiated by an entity of said host system and access to  
3 information is restricted based on access permissions  
4 employed by said host system.

1           18. The method of claim 1 wherein said request is  
2 initiated by an entity of said host system and access to  
3 creating templates and creating part qualification plans is  
4 restricted based on access permissions employed by said host  
5 system.

1           19. The method of claim 1 wherein said user system is  
2 remote to said host system.

1           20. A system for facilitating part qualification  
2 functions in a communications network environment,  
3 comprising:

4           a host system including a web server, an applications  
5 server, and a database server;

6           at least one data storage device in communication with  
7 said host system;

8           part qualification software being executed by said host  
9 system;

10          a firewall in communication with said host system;

11          a workstation; and

12          a computer network connecting the host system to the  
13 workstation; wherein information inputted into the  
14 workstation is transferred to the host system and made  
15 available to the part qualification software.

1           21. A storage medium encoded with machine-readable  
2 computer program code for facilitating part qualification  
3 functions in a communications network environment, the  
4 storage medium including instructions for causing an  
5 enterprise system to implement a method comprising:

6           receiving at a host system a request by a user system  
7 to execute part qualification software wherein said host  
8 system and said user system are connected to said  
9 communications network;

10          executing said part qualification software at the host  
11 system;

12          sending results of said execution of said software to  
13 the user system;

14          receiving input at the host system from the user system  
15 in response to said execution of said software; and

16          providing the user system with output generated as a  
17 result of said execution of said software.

1           22. The storage medium of claim 21 wherein executing  
2       said part qualification software comprises:  
3           selecting a commodity type, wherein said commodity type  
4       is associated with a supplier part;  
5           creating a part qualification plan template for said  
6       commodity type;  
7           using said template to create a part qualification plan  
8       for said supplier part;  
9           updating said part qualification plan with data  
10      specific to said supplier part;  
11           analyzing said data;  
12           qualifying said supplier part based on said analyzing  
13      said data.

1           23. The storage medium of claim 22 further comprising  
2       instructions for causing a computer to implement:  
3           an archive tool for said part qualification plan.

1           24. The storage medium of claim 22, wherein said part  
2       qualification plan template comprises:  
3           types of data required to qualify said commodity type;  
4           proposed data repositories for storing said data;  
5           assigned default viewing tool based on said proposed  
6       data repositories;  
7           a text message field; and  
8           access permissions structure.



1           25. The storage medium of claim 24 wherein said part  
2 qualification plan template further comprises a detailed  
3 plan framework comprising:  
4           a plurality of tasks;  
5           suggested durations for each said plurality of tasks;  
6 and  
7           at least one entity responsible for each said plurality  
8 of tasks.

1           26. The storage medium of claim 22, wherein said part  
2 qualification plan comprises:  
3           types of data required to qualify said supplier part;  
4           proposed data repositories for storing said data;  
5           assigned default viewing tool based on said proposed  
6 data repositories;  
7           a text message field; and  
8           access permissions structure.

1           27. The storage medium of claim 26 wherein said  
2 qualification plan further comprises a detailed plan  
3 comprising:  
4           a plurality of tasks;  
5           target dates for each said plurality of tasks;  
6           status information for each said plurality of tasks;  
7 and  
8           entity responsible for each said plurality of tasks.

1 28. The storage medium of claim 26 wherein said text  
2 message field includes a document link.

1 29. The storage medium of claim 26 wherein said text  
2 message field includes a hypertext link.

1 30. The storage medium of claim 26 wherein said text  
2 message field includes a file name.

1 31. The storage medium of claim 26 wherein said text  
2 message field includes a comment.

1 32. The storage medium of claim 26 wherein said  
2 proposed data repositories are remote to said host system.

1 33. The storage medium of claim 22 wherein said  
2 analyzing said data includes selecting and viewing an item  
3 in said list.

1 34. The storage medium of claim 22 wherein said  
2 analyzing said data includes running reports against  
3 detailed plans and viewing said reports.

1 35. The storage medium of claim 21 wherein said  
2 request is initiated by a supplier and access is restricted  
3 to supplier data.

1           36. The storage medium of claim 21 wherein said  
2 request is initiated by a supplier and access is restricted  
3 to supplier application functions.

1           37. The storage medium of claim 21 wherein said  
2 request is initiated by an entity of said host system and  
3 access to information is restricted based on access  
4 permissions employed by said host system.

1           38. The storage medium of claim 21 wherein said  
2 request is initiated by an entity of said host system and  
3 access to creating templates and creating part qualification  
4 plans is restricted based on access permissions employed by  
5 said host system.

1           39. The storage medium of claim 21 wherein said user  
2 system is remote to said host system.